SPECIAL EXPANDED EDITION

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A RIVER JOURNEY
How China is choking the Mekong. **WORLD, A11**

The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Partly sunny 49/37 • Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy 51/37 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020 · $3.50

IVAN ABREU/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Train passengers in Hong Kong wear protective masks Thursday. A shortage of masks, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies has prompted fresh criticism of the government amid the political unrest there. The coronavirus has killed 213 people, all of them in mainland China.

WHO labels virus a global emergency

First person-to-person transmission confirmed in U.S.

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN, LENA H. SUN, SIOBHÁN O'GRADY AND YASMEEN ABUTALEB

Health officials reported the first U.S. case of person-to-person transmission of the new coronavirus Thursday as the World Health Organization set in motion a global effort to fight the outbreak by declaring it a public health emergency.

Late Thursday, the State Department also issued a "do not travel" advisory for China. That warning level — the department's highest — had previously been in force only for the province where the outbreak began.

State and federal officials said the sixth infected person in the United States is married to the Chicago-area woman who contracted the virus when she traveled to Wuhan, China, the epicenter of

SEE **VIRUS** ON **A18**

Stranded: Americans in Wuhan await evacuation flights. **A20**

Outbreak rouses fresh fury aimed at Hong Kong government

BY SHIBANI MAHTANI

HONG KONG — As Hong Kong awoke Thursday, local media outlets were on the streets preparing for live broadcasts, a staple of the city's news consumption during the past eight months of political unrest.

This time, though, there were no throngs of black-clad demonstrators occupying roads or setting up barricades, no young people in full-face respirators preparing to battle police or mix chemicals for gasoline bombs.

The broadcasts instead conveyed scenes perhaps equally anxiety-inducing: hundreds of people, alarmed by the spread of the new coronavirus, waiting in line to purchase surgical masks and hand sanitizer. At one point, more than 3,000 viewers were tuned in, watching as pharmacy staff emerged from behind metal

SEE **HONG KONG** ON **A18**

U.S. action: Trump is pressured to mount coordinated response. **A19**

Senate is poised for witness vote in impeachment

GOP CONFIDENT OF NO NEW TESTIMONY

Trump allies hope to bring trial to a close today

BY MIKE DEBONIS, SEUNG MIN KIM AND DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD

The impeachment trial of President Trump is headed for a critical vote Friday that will determine whether the Senate hears from witnesses over allegations that the president pressured Ukraine to launch investigations for his own political benefit.

But Senate Republicans are increasingly confident no new testimony will be heard and they can start on a sprint toward Trump's acquittal.

On Thursday, as the Senate concluded another day-long question-and-answer session with House impeachment managers and Trump lawyers, some Republicans said they hope the trial will be completed Friday.

"We still feel very positive about it," said Sen. John Barrasso (Wyo.), the third-ranking Republican leader. "More and more members are saying, 'I'm ready to go to a final [vote]. . . . I've heard enough.' "

One other possibility for Friday is that the Senate will deadlock on the question of calling witnesses. That would put Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. in the position of breaking the tie — a role Democrats are urging him to play — unless Roberts decides that's not his job.

Trump was impeached by the House in December — charged with abuse of power after being accused of soliciting the Ukrainian government's help in undermining his political rivals and obstructing the House's investigation into his actions.

The final outcome of Trump's Senate trial has never been in doubt. It takes only 34 votes to acquit. The GOP has 53 seats. And with Republican primary voters strongly supportive of Trump, these senators have shown little interest in crossing him.

Instead, the main drama has been about how much more Republican senators want to learn about what Trump may have done before deciding whether he should be convicted.

On Thursday, the answer appeared to be: not much.

"Even if you take everything else that is levied on him by others . . . is it an impeachable offense?" said Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who said she would not vote to call witnesses. "I don't see that it rises to the level of being an impeachable offense."

Earlier this week, the New York Times reported that Trump's for-

SEE **IMPEACHMENT** ON **A4**

SENATE TELEVISION/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dershowitz hits back: Lawyer says his comments were misconstrued, president is not above the law. **A4**

CAMPAIGN 2020

Trump, allies focus fire on Biden ahead of Iowa

GOP hurls corruption claims at Democrat seen as top threat to reelection

BY TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA

DES MOINES — With President Trump holding a campaign rally here Thursday ahead of the Iowa caucuses, his allies had coalesced around an effort to damage former vice president Joe Biden's prospects in the state that begins the 2020 presidential nominating contests.

Republican lawmakers have used the spotlight of Trump's impeachment trial to accuse Biden of corruption, a U.S. senator from Florida is running television ads against Biden in Iowa, and several Trump campaign surrogates have ramped up their attacks against the former vice president as they prepare to fan out across the state in support of Trump's reelection bid.

"There is a mountain of evidence to suggest the Bidens' behavior was harmful to the United States," Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) said Wednesday from the U.S. Capitol, where several GOP lawmakers used the impeachment trial's question-and-answer session to insinuate wrongdoing by Biden.

Trump's campaign is dispatching Vice President Pence and more than 80 other surrogates to Iowa ahead of Monday's caucus votes. The group includes several Republicans who have launched the most pointed attacks against Biden and his son Hunter during the impeachment process.

Trump's rally in Des Moines came on the eve of a critical Senate vote over whether his impeachment trial would include witnesses. The president has used his recent rallies to criticize several of his Democratic rivals, with Biden receiving the lion's share of the attacks.

Biden responded Thursday by drawing a sharp contrast with Trump in a speech and with a new television ad, both aimed at highlighting differences in character between the two men and previewing a potential general-election matchup.

"In Joe Biden's America, the president's tax returns will not be a secret," Biden told a standing-room-only crowd at an elementary school in Waukee, Iowa, his first of three stops for the day. "Political self-interest will not be confused with national interest. And no

SEE **IOWA** ON **A6**

Buttigieg's hurdle: Iowans worry he can't attract black voters. **A5**

Looming large in Iowa: Trump is omnipresent via trial, rally. **A6**

ARIANA BROCIOUS/ARIZONA PUBLIC MEDIA

Gates stand open in U.S. government fencing on John Ladd's ranch along the border near Naco, Ariz., last August. Ladd said illegal crossings and smuggling increase when the gates are open.

At border, wall no match for storms

Summer torrents mean open gates — and access — for months at a time

BY NICK MIROFF

NACO, ARIZ. — President Trump's border wall probably will require the installation of hundreds of storm gates to prevent flash floods from undermining or knocking it over, gates that must be left open for months every summer during "monsoon season" in the desert, according to U.S. border officials, agents and engineers familiar with the plans.

The open, unmanned gates in remote areas already have allowed for the easy entry of smugglers and migrants into the United States.

At locations along the U.S. southern border where such gates already are in operation, Border Patrol agents must manually raise them every year before the arrival of the summer thunderstorms that convert riverbeds into raging torrents that carry massive amounts of water and debris, including sediment, rocks, tree limbs and vegetation. Trump's wall, which features 30-foot metal bollards spaced four inches apart, effectively acts as a sewer grate that traps the debris; when clogged, the barriers cannot withstand the power of the runoff.

SEE **WALL** ON **A8**

House moves twice to limit Trump on striking Iran

BY KAROUN DEMIRJIAN

The House approved two measures Thursday aimed at restraining President Trump from targeting Iran militarily, as lawmakers clamor to force his administration to consult Congress before taking actions that could provoke a war.

The legislation would prohibit Trump from using federal funds to strike Iran without prior approval, and repeal an 18-year-old law that he and his advisers have cited to justify killing a top Iranian general earlier this month. Both measures have earned limited Republican support and are expected to face difficult odds in the Senate, where GOP leaders can easily block them from coming to the floor for a vote.

Republicans who have broken with Trump over his past efforts to withdraw U.S. troops from the Middle East have cheered his decision to kill Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, blasting critics as being soft on terrorism. But to the many Democrats and few Republicans who have sought to curtail Trump's military authority, the dispute isn't whether Soleimani was a worthwhile target, but whether the administration should have approached Congress before greenlighting the drone strike in Baghdad that led

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The Washington Post / Year 143, No. 57

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